

REMARKS

Claim 25 is the sole claim presented for consideration.

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended toward their representative during the personal interview on October 2, 2003, and the telephone interview on October 7, 2003.

The personal interview focused primarily on independent Claims 1, 13, 25 and 26 and the art cited against the claims. During the personal interview, the Examiner reiterated his views that independent Claims 1, 13 and 26 were not allowable over the cited art for the reasons set forth in the previous Office Action of April 17, 2003.

During the telephone interview, Claim 25 was discussed with respect to the applied art, and particularly the primary citation to Mitsutake (U.S. Patent No. 5,760,538) and Kato (U.S. Patent No. 5,688,708). It was tentatively agreed that amending Claim 25 in the manner shown above would overcome the outstanding rejection. In that regard, Claim 25 has been amended to feature, among other steps for manufacturing an airtight vessel, activating a non-evaporable getter disposed in the airtight vessel by selective heating before baking the airtight vessel.

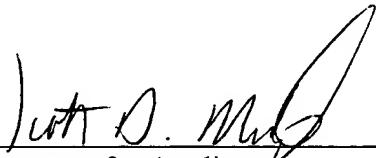
It is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection of Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is overcome by the amendment shown above.

With respect to Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-13, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 26, the rejection as applied to these claims is deemed to be moot in view of their cancellation.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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